

## The Top 5 Places to Buy or Sell a Home

Find Out Where to Get the Most Out of Your Home and Where to Pick Up a New One

The struggling housing market has sellers and buyers searching for the best regions to get a great deal.

Nationwide, home values are down 12 percent, compared with the same time a year ago, according to real estate website Zillow.com.

Zillow, which tracks virtually every house sale in the nation, has ranked the top five best locations for home buyers and sellers.

The results may surprise you, because the best places to buy a home are not necessarily where the houses cost the least.

"For people who are financially qualified, it never has been a better time in nearly 40 years," said Lawrence Yun, at the National Association of Realtors. "I think this is good long-term investment opportunity to get into the market now."

### The Best Cities to Buy a Home

When you go to buy a house, low-priced markets not the only factor you should consider.

"The No. 1 factor for a market holding its value over time has to do with what types of jobs are fueling the local economy," said Amy Bohuntinsky, of Zillow.com

Look for communities with a strong job market and stable housing values. Some common threads: cities with military bases, state capitals and college towns all fare well because they are more "recession proof," according to Zillow. A strong tourism industry helps too.

### Fayetteville, N.C.

Fayetteville has the nations best performing housing market in the country. The median home value is \$120,060 and that's up 13 percent from a year ago.

It's property values also are up 6.3 percent when compared to five years ago. In Fayetteville, 95 percent of homes sold for a gain.

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